

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7011

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1762

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, SY

SUBJECT: GROMYKO'S VISIT TO EGYPT

REF: A. CAIRO 1369 B. MOSCOW 1576

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. SUMMARY. EGYPTIAN AND SOVIET SOURCES ARE STILL MUM ON GROMKYO'S TALKS IN CAIRO, BUT FROM OUTWARD APPEARANCES HIS VISIT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE PRODUCED ANY STRIKING BREAKTHROUGHS FOR THE SOVIETS. COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON BREZHNEV-SADAT EXCHANGES APPEAR DELIBERATELY NON-COMMITAL ABOUT A SUMMIT. LANGUAGE ON THE
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GENEVA CONFERENCE AND SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SETTLEMENT PROCESS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM FORMULAS EMPLOYED IN RECENT SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COMMUNIQUE, BUT ON SOVIET ROLE COMMUNIQUE RESUSCITATES LANGUAGE USED IN MARCH 1974. SOVIETS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED FURTHER ON THE QUESTION OF A PALESTINIAN "STATE" AND COMMUNIQUE, IF ANYTHING, APPEARS SOMEWHAT LESS PRECISE ON THE PLO ROLE AT GENEVA THAN DID SOVIET-EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS IN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. BREZHNEV-SADAT SUMMIT. COMMUNIQUE'S REFERENCE TO "GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE (OR "AN--RUSSIAN HAS NO DEFINITE ARTICLE) EXCHANGE OF VIEWS" BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND SADAT ON THE "MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS" OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS APPEARS TO LEAVE THE PROBLEM OF A BREZHNEV-SADAT SUMMIT OPEN. LANGUAGE CONTRASTS WITH THAT OF THE SOVIET-SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE WHICH TALKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF "MEETINGS" BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND ASAD AND CAREFULLY AVOIDS ANY USE OF THE FUTURE TENSE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS KEPT THE SUMMIT QUESTION JUST WHERE IT WAS AFTER THE FAHMY VISIT HERE IN DECEMBER.

3. GENEVA CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME IT APPEARS GROMYKO WAS UNABLE TO MOVE THE EGYPTIANS VERY FAR ON GENEVA. THE SOVIETS MANAGED TO ADD A LITTLE URGENCY TO THE MEPC PASSAGE BY REFERRING TO THE "IMMEDIATE (NEMEDLENNO)" RESUMPTION OF THE CONFERENCE, BUT WE SUSPECT THEY WILL NOT BE PLEASED AT EGYPTIAN REFUSAL TO INCLUDE A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME (REFTEL A). THE REFERENCE TO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ALL GENEVA WORKING ORGANS AND ALL STAGES AND IN ALL AREAS OF THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS REPEATS ALMOST VERBATIM THE JOINT LANGUAGE USED IN THE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN COMMUNIQUE OF MARCH 5 LAST YEAR. WHILE IT THUS IS NOT NEW, THE SOVIETS WILL PROBABLY BE PLEASED AT HAVING CAIRO RESTATE ITS SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION AFTER A HIATUS OF NEARLY A YEAR.

4. PALESTINIANS. AS WAS THE CASE IN SYRIA, THE SOVIETS HELD BACK ON THE PALESTINIAN "STATE" QUESTION (WE NOTE ALSO THAT GROMYKO MADE NO REFERENCE TO A "STATE" DURING HIS SPEECHES IN CAIRO) AND THROUGHOUT THE EGYPTIAN VISIT KEPT TO ESTABLISHED SOVIET FORMULAS SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND STATEHOOD. IN THIS CONNECTION WE ALSO NOTE THAT PRAVDA'S BRIEF ARTICLE ABOUT GROMYKO'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT (FEBRUARY 4) REPORTED GROMYKO AS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND STATEHOOD--STATE WAS NOT MENTIONED-- AND FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA. ARTICLE THEN REPORTED ONLY THAT ARAFAT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SOVIET SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, THEREBY SUGGESTING THAT DIFFERENCES MAY HAVE EXISTED DURING THE MEETING.

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5. THE COMMUNIQUE'S LANGUAGE ON PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA IS ALSO, INTERESTINGLY, LESS PRECISE THAN THAT USED BY

THE SOVIETS AND EGYPTIANS DURING THEIR LAST TWO MEETINGS. IN DECEMBER THE PARTIES CALLED FOR PLO PARTICIPATION "IN THE CAPACITY OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE," AND IN OCTOBER THEY PLEDGED TO WORK FOR THE "PLO'S INDEPENDENT PARTICIPATION WITH RIGHTS EQUAL TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS."

6. COMMNET: EGYPTIAN AND SOVIET SOURCES HERE ARE SO FAR PROVIDING LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT GROMKYO'S TRIP. EGYPTIAN EMOFFF FEBRUARY 6, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE VISIT TO CAIRO, SAID HIS EMBASSY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPORT ON THE VISIT. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN POLITICAL COUNSELOR, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KUZNETSOV WAS EQUALLY UNINFORMATIVE DURING A CALL FEBRUARY 5 (THE DAY OF GROMYKO'S DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO) BY THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR. ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN, KUZNETSOV TERMED THE VISIT "USEFUL," BUT DEVOTED MOST OF HIS REPSONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT IT TO A TIRADE AGAINST ISRAEL AND ADMONITIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR EVERY COUNTRY TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO PRESSURE THE ISRAELIS.
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